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[Home](#) > Not on My Watch: By a Whisker

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## Not on My Watch: By a Whisker

Tue, 2010-10-05 15:05 — Robin Olson

Last week, I learned a painful lesson. I waited a few hours too long to say, "YES" to rescuing some kittens from Henry County Care & Control. By the time I called, they had been euthanized. Some of them started to show signs of upper respiratory-something we could have easily managed in foster care, but the rules of the shelter are not forgiving.

I cried a lot that day and the images of those kittens are etched in my heart, forever. Though guilt weighs heavily upon me, it does not stop my need to try again.

Over the weekend, I found out about the kittens you see, below. There are two sets of two-really one litter of four in two cages. Each one sweeter than the last. I knew it would be tricky for me to take them since my fosters haven't all be adopted yet, but I was set on doing just that. I started the work trying to put all the puzzle pieces together. Could Maria foster? Yes. Could Bobby transport them to the Vet and get them from HCCAC for me? Yes. How much would this cost? I need to do a fundraiser.



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Then, another rescue group in New York stepped up to offer to take two of the kittens-the cute lynx point/siamese mixes. Another group said they would take the other two. Fundraising didn't need to be done, but they didn't have a foster home or a way to get the kittens out of HCCAC. So I contacted Betsy at HCCAC and told her about my weird plan. My group pulls the cats, they get funded by another, they get transported to New York and ultimately get fostered and homed by another group! It's nutty, but who cares? Will I miss having them here, YES, but...they will be alive. That's what counts.

Crazy little details sorted. Directions, confirmations and approvals given, I made the call yesterday morning to confirm rescuing the kittens. My heart was racing. I hoped I hadn't waited too long (again). Betsy was out and they asked me to leave a message. I started to panic. I gave them the ID numbers of the kittens and said that I would be happy to take them and to **NOT PUT THEM DOWN**. I waited.



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I waited an hour. I didn't want to be a pest. I hate to be annoying, but I was freaking out! I emailed Betsy. I waited. I finally called HCCAC again and she was still out so I asked if there was someone else I could speak with and a gentleman got on the phone and told me they cats were still "available" and that not to worry. Betsy would call back.



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### **So. I worried.**

A little while later my phone rang. It was Gerri Yoder, the Director at Henry County Care & Control. She told me that Betsy had contacted her and asked her to call me! That not-to-worry, the kittens were safe and they would hold them until we could pick them up the next day. She gave me her direct phone number at the shelter AND her cellphone number. I never have to worry that I can't reach someone who can help me help the kittens.

I stopped worrying. As soon as I started to relax, Gerri told me it was a good thing the kittens were getting a rescue. They had starting to sneeze-showing signs of getting URIs. Then, it hit me. If I had waited another second, they would have been put down. It was by a whisker that these kittens were saved. I wanted to throw up.

A little over an hour ago, these little babies were not only busted out and rescued, but they have already been to the vet and are on their way to Maria's house to be fostered for the next two weeks. They are just six weeks old.



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Two have the sniffles, but nothing too bad just now. Bed rest and good food will help them feel better soon. They are out, just in the nick of time...and now they have their whole lives ahead of them, instead of few hours left to live.



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Welcome to life outside death row, babies. Welcome! Oh and we have a few more kitties to welcome, too. When you rescue four, you just can't stop there, can you? Heck no!

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[Cute Photo](#) <sup>[3]</sup>

[Kitten](#) <sup>[4]</sup>

[Needs a Home](#) <sup>[5]</sup>

[Vets](#) <sup>[6]</sup>

[Cat Rescue](#) <sup>[7]</sup>

[Who Knew?](#) <sup>[8]</sup>

[Distemper](#) <sup>[9]</sup>

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[Maria](#) <sup>[13]</sup>

#### **Comments**

Wed, 2010-10-06 11:14 — [Warren \(not verified\)](#) <sup>[14]</sup>

**[Way to go, Robin!](#)** <sup>[15]</sup>

Nice work, Robin - you rock!

**[awww...](#)** <sup>[17]</sup>

Thank you Warren-honey!  
:-)

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**Links**

- [1] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/32>
- [2] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/33>
- [3] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/48>
- [4] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/63>
- [5] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/68>
- [6] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/85>
- [7] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/100>
- [8] <https://coveredincathair.com/taxonomy/term/110>
- [9] <https://coveredincathair.com/category/cich-content-categories/distemper>
- [10] <https://coveredincathair.com/category/cich-content-categories/kitten-associates>
- [11] <https://coveredincathair.com/category/cich-content-categories/you-rock>
- [12] <https://coveredincathair.com/category/cich-content-categories/bobby>
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